

Message Text

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11

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01

INSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 SY-05 SSO-00 /046 W

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O R 020308Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4425

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION UN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 5014

E.O. 11652: N/-

TAGS: SREF, MY

SUBJECT: INDOCHINESE REFUGEE BOAT CASES: INTERVIEW WITH HIGH
COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

REF: (A) GENEVA 682, (B) KUALA LUMPUR 4954

1. RE PARA 4 REF A, WE HAVE GIVEN NO RPT NO ASSURANCES OR
GUARANTEES, WRITTEN OR OTHERWISE, TO UNHCR OR GOM REGARDING
ANY OF THE 93 REFUGEES IN QUESTION AT KUALA KEMAMAN. WE HAVE,
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HOWEVER, AS NOTED REF B, CATEGORIZED NAMES ACCORING TO

THOSE "PROBABLY"ELIGIBLE, "POSSIBLY"ELIGIBLE AND APPARENTLY "INELIGIBLE" AND CONVEYED THIS INFORMATION TO MFA AS WELL AS TO MISS FRASER OF UNHCR OFFICER HERE, INCLUDING CAVEAT FINAL DETERMINATIONS RE ELIGIBILITY AND OPENING WILL BE MADE IN WASHINGTON.

ADDITIONALLY WE HAVE CONVEYED COPIES OF COMPLETED INTERVIEW FORMS TO HER FOR DISSEMINATION TO OTHER EMBASSIES. WE UNDERSTAND FRENCH CONSUL WILL USE THESE WHEN HE TRAVELS TO EAST COAST ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, TO INTERVIEW REFUGEES AT KEMAMAN, KUALA DUNGUN, AND POSSIBLY ELSEWHERE.

2. MISS FRASER INFORMS US THAT SHE LIKewise HAS GIVEN NO ASSURANCES OR GUARANTEES RE GROUP OF 93. WE HAVE HOWEVER RECEIVED A LETTER FROM HER DATED AUG 30 CONVEYING MFA OFFER TO "ALLOW THE GROUP TO REMAIN IN MALAYSIA FOR A FEW DAYS" PENDING RECEIPT OF "A WRITTEN GUARANTEE OF PERMANENT ASYLUM" FROM THE EMBASSY. MISS FRASER AND MFA BOTH CLEARLY AWARE WE CANNOT REPEAT CANNOT MAKE SUCH GUARANTEES ALTHOUGH WE HAVE AGREED REPORT EXPEDITIOUSLY TO WASHINGTON ALL CASES THAT WE BELIEVE MERIT CONSIDERATION. WE ARE REPLYING TO HER LETTER ACCORDINGLY, FOR THE RECORD.

3. COMMENT. WE BELIEVE GOM PROMPTED POSTPONE EXPULSION DUE TO VISIBLE SIGNS OF ACTIVITY AROUSED BY EXPULSION THREAT, ALTHOUGH UNTIL APPROACH IS MADE BY UNHCR TO PRIME MINISTER TO OBTAIN GOM ACCEPTANCE OF FIRST ASYLUM ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL RESETTLEMENT EFFORT, EXPULSION OF THIS GROUP AND REFUSAL LAND OTHERS REMAIN LIVE OPTIONS. INCIDENTALLY, OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT MISS FRASER IS DOING HER UTMOST UNDER DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES CREAED BY FREQUENT ABSENCES OF UNHCR REGIONAL REP SAMPATKUMAR.
UNDERHILL

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